(b) and (c) These indicate the willingness of ULFA to hold talks with the Government of India, but there has been no change in the preconditions for holding talks, *viz,* their "core demand" of sovereignty.

(d) In reply, it has been reiterated that the Government of India is willing to talk to all groups, which were prepared to abjure the path of violence, but without preconditions.

Naxalism in U.P.

† 2408. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the districts of Uttar Pradesh which are affected by naxalism;

(b) whether the State Government have requested to provide a contingent of Central Reserve Police Force on Central Government's expenditure to put an effective curb on naxalites in naxal affected districts;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the decision taken by Central Government on State Government's request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) 3 districts of Uttar Pradesh, namely, Sonebhadra, Mirzapur and Chandauli are affected by naxalism. As requested by the State Government, one battalion of CRPF has been deployed in the State for anti-naxalite operations. The State has been exempted from the payment of cost of depolyment of CPMFs on anti-naxalite duty for 3 years *w.e.f.* 1.7.2004.

Modernization of BSF

2409. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is. a fact that Government had taken a decision to modernize the BSF and take care of its needs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.